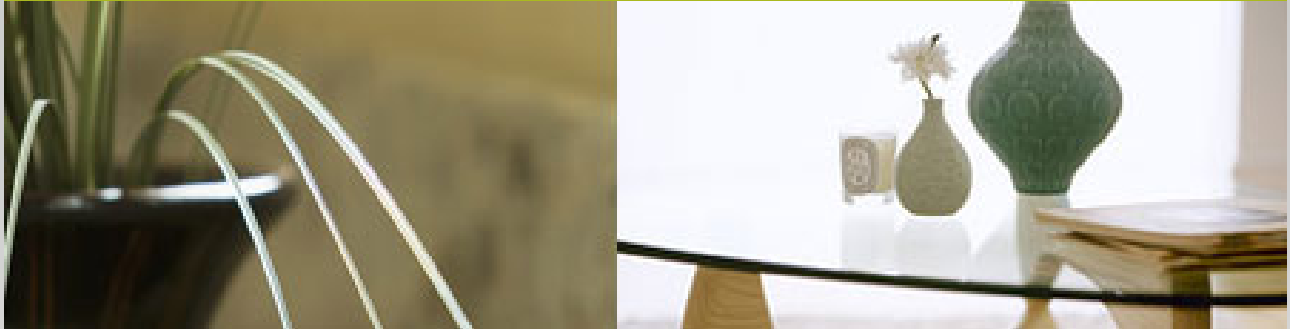


## SCRIBBLES...POSSIBILITIES...& DISCOVERIES



### *Pretty things*

I always get a chuckle out of the reality design shows on television. They make interior design look so easy, inexpensive and lightning fast! Kind of like the detective shows where they solve a serial murder in just under an hour. Bring on the next case!

Good design is not magical. Master bathrooms and kitchens are not gutted and rebuilt in a week for \$5,000. Architectural elevations are not created in an hour and a whole-home installation of furnishings and accessories is not accomplished in three hours. Good design takes time and thought. It is challenging and exciting and requires a lot of attention to details.

At Sweet Peas Design we have a seasoned team to solve problems, coordinate and manage a project. The options are limitless - have you seen how many styles of bathroom faucets there are lately? - so it takes a lot of practice and expertise to narrow the selections while balancing the intricacies of construction and project management.

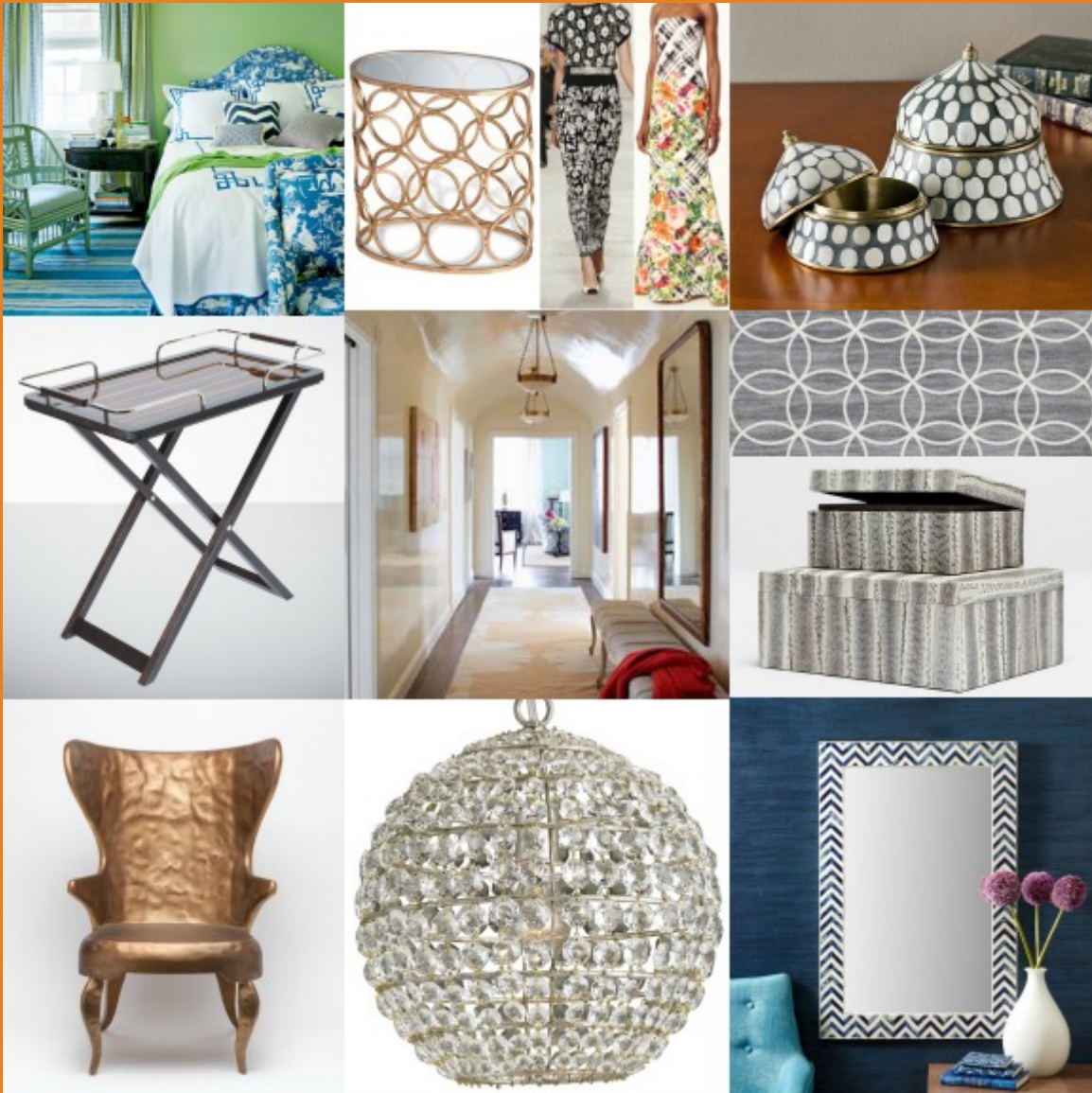
The last time I looked around the studio or in the mirror I didn't see a Samantha from "Bewitched" or a genie from "I Dream of Jeannie!" We work in the real world and what we do is practical, realistic and knowledgeable. We are often asked questions such as: "how did you know that moving my pair of master bedroom chairs to the family room would be perfect?" Or, "how did you envision that deleting the tub from the master bath would allow for back-to-back floating sinks, his-and-her toilet compartments and car wash-size shower?"

It takes years of experience to answer those questions, and that is why people hire a seasoned design team. Yes, we will give you a lot of pretty things for your home, but we do so much more than that.

Sincerely,

# what's **in** what's *out*

## WHAT'S IN



**1. Blue Sky** Mix blue with just about any other color and the result is spectacular! We especially like blue with white- so crisp and clean. Pair it with gray for a more masculine, strong look. With greens, it can go tropical. Add orange to blue - instant fun. Blue is back in any hue - navy, royal, French...try it!

**2. Boxed In** We can't get enough of boxes! Store your treasures, your photos, your secrets and even your remote controls. Stack them, display them, mix them up, collect

them! Whatever color, size, shape or texture you desire, you are sure to find it. Try anchoring your small box collection on a fabulous tray.

**3. An Iconic Symbol** Rich in symbolism and design, the logo of the Olympic games - interlocking circles- adds interest to spaces that are mostly linear. To create impact and interest, incorporate the interlocking rings design in a rug, pillows, a tile backsplash, or even a wall covering.

**4. The Most Functional Occasional Piece Of All Times** Tray tables are a stylish must have and they look nothing like the tray tables of generations ago. Remember eating TV dinners on a tray table at your grandma's house? Today's designs are sophisticated , inventive and fit almost any décor. What other piece of furniture is as flexible? With a tray table you can pick up the top and carry your drinks and appetizers from one guest to the next. And when the party's over - it's back to the table.

**5. Prints, Prints and More Prints.** Prints are definitely taking stage - front and center! One print is no longer enough. We are seeing multiple prints on the runway, so don't be afraid - layer a few or more in a room. If you want to mix prints, vary the scale and intensity of the patterns for contrast and interest, but remember, you need a unifying element such as a color that appears in all the prints you are using.

**6. Going for the Gold** In the spirit of the recent Oscars and the Olympics, gold is back and quickly becoming the winner in the metals arena- making a play to nudge out silver, the long prevailing metal of choice in the design world! Whether it's hardware, accessories, furniture finishes, sculptures or wallpaper, gold is "here" to stay. And don't forget about gold jewelry. I recently purchased gorgeous gold hoop earrings and a gold moonstone ring designed by Krista Everage, a fabulous jewelry designer in LA, [www.kristastudio.com/](http://www.kristastudio.com/). Another new gold find from my friend, Connie McCreight, a daily blog titled "Object Lesson" by Carol Fertig, [object-lesson.info/archives.html](http://object-lesson.info/archives.html). She too has been concentrating on gold, but also features other finds.

**7. The Lip Gloss Look** High gloss paint in darker colors and even neutrals is all the rage. Look for it in dining rooms, living rooms, foyers and MBR's. High gloss is not just for ceilings anymore. Use it on walls to give more reflection and move the natural daylight farther into a room- a more lacquered look!

**8. The Crystal Palace** Uncut or natural rough crystals are beautiful! And they are everywhere...on chandeliers, lamps, sculptures and accessories. Crystals are a wonderful way to add texture to a room. I love the way they twinkle in the sunlight. Perfect for earrings, bracelets and rings. I just purchased a pair of gray and gold crystal earrings and a pair of silver and brown crystal earrings...

*> left to right photos courtesy of: top row- housebeautiful.com, interludehome.com, ladylux.com, interludehome.com; middle row- davidlinley.com, housebeautiful.com, Julie Dasher Rugs, Made Goods; bottom row- Made Goods, Currey & Company, Two's Company*

1. Holding On To Unused Furniture or Accessories. This is kinda like keeping clothes that no longer fit... If you have old, worn out or tired furniture items, get rid of them! They are just taking up space. Purge... I promise you will feel better when you do.

sweet  
tip



### **Rugs! Rooms and Rules!**

When determining the right size rug for a room, consider standard rug sizes first.

- \* 2' x 3' rugs - Best for kitchens, bathrooms, back halls or small entryways
- \* 3' x 5' rugs- Best for kitchens and main entries, some bathrooms and spas or a pair on either side of bed
- \* 4' x 6' rugs - Best as an accent under a cocktail tables, larger foyers or a pair on either side of bed
- \* 5' x 7' rugs- Best for living areas (family & living rooms), under small dining tables or large entries
- \* 8' x 10' or 8' x 11' rugs - Best for living rooms family rooms and dining rooms
- \* 9' x 12' and 10' x 14' rugs- Best for living rooms, family rooms and dining rooms

To determine the ideal size for your dining room area rug, simply measure your dining table and add 30" on each side to allow enough space to pull the chairs in and out. Nothing is more frustrating that a dining chair that sits half on the half off the rug!

> *photo courtesy of: Sweet Peas Design*

FABU FABRIC



## INDOOR OUTDOOR FABRICS

Indoor-Outdoor fabrics have come a long way in the last few years! No longer are they stiff, canvas feeling fabrics in solids and stripes. Today's wide range of patterns, textures, and colorways would surprise you!

Selections include faux linens, sheers, chenilles, velvets and twills - your outdoor space can be bright and bold, elegant or casual, subtle and stunning!

Aside from the unlimited choices, these fabrics are touted for their durability, weather and mildew resistance qualities, fade resistance and cleanability!

For obvious reasons, they are quickly becoming a fabric of choice for indoor everyday living spaces - kitchens, family rooms, children's rooms and lower levels.

*> photos courtesy of: sunbrella.com*

## SPOT LIGHT ON A FAVORITE

### Console of Sofa Tables

Whether you call them consoles or sofa tables, these 17th century accent pieces are as useful as they are decorative. In entryways they make a convenient resting place for items coming into the house or going out: keys, mail, a handbag or newspaper. Place a pretty mirror above the table and everyone can make last-minute adjustments to hair, neckties and scarves.

Family rooms are another great place for a console. Put favorite accessories, books or mementoes on top and a pair of ottomans underneath for easy, portable extra seating. In dining rooms these

tables are perfect for displaying heirloom serving pieces and beautiful coffee or tea sets. Consoles date back to 17th-century Italy and are a prime example of the ornate furniture style of that era. Many pieces were so intricately carved they could be called sculpture as much as furniture. Consoles also were popular in 18th-century France. Imagine how elaborate they must have been at the Palace at Versailles!

The first console tables had half-moon shaped tops typically made of marble and only two front legs, but those legs could be quite shapely. The tables are named for the S-shaped bracket which attaches them to the wall, giving the illusion that they are freestanding. Once some clever designer added the second set of legs, consoles went from being just another pretty face to a freestanding, more versatile piece of furniture. Today's designs tend to be less ornate, but just as integral to a room. The middle photo below of Coco Chanel's foyer in Paris highlights the console table's ages-old appeal.



> photos courtesy of Kravet, Pintrest-Coco Chanel's Foyer, Sweet Peas Design

At Sweet Peas Design we always have our eyes (and hands) on the ball. Here's an update on our comings and goings.

### RAISING FUNDS WITHOUT BREAKING A SWEAT

Normally we don't mind some heavy lifting, but in the case of the recent "silent auction" fund raiser for LakeCountyCares we were happy to use our muscles for mingling, imbibing and raising our auction paddles.

Last month Susan attended a new kind of "silent auction" for LCC and helped raise over \$27,000 for this much-needed organization. Instead of bidding on an array of auction items the 110 attendees simply raised their paddles to donate from \$100 to \$1,000 to LCC. Rather than organizing a lavish gala in a private banquet room the event was held in the home of John and Lexie Knox of Lake Forest who also donated the food. Two other donors provided beverages.



The agency will use the money raised and the money saved for programs ranging from kindergarten readiness programs and care packages for the homeless to gifts for needy people during the holidays.

LCC engages roughly 20,000 volunteers annually serving 140 social service agencies in the county.

### SWEET PEAS GOES "APP"

Trends Ideas magazines has just launched a new eBook "App for Bathrooms" featuring content from its Bathroom Trends magazines. You'll find our Lake Forest Showhouse powder room in the most recent edition with full screen photos, amazing resolution and detail. Here's a quick preview on the Trends website:

<http://trendsideas.com/apps/bathroom-trends-usa.html>



### HEADLINES...

What's hot in kitchen design now? Crain's Chicago Business wanted to know, and Susan wanted to tell! Her comments about on-trend lighting and tiles shapes are included with several other area designers in a recent article by freelancer Anne Moore. Look for ideas here:

<http://www.chicagobusiness.com/article/20140301/ISSUE03/303019996/whats-hot-in-kitchen-design-now>

Next up: An article from New York-based freelancer Barbara Ballinger in the Chicago Tribune about what's in for spring. And the summer issue of Kitchen and Bath Makeovers is featuring one of our powder rooms!

# GET THE LOOK



## Get the Look - Snow White!!

The backdrop for the winter Olympics was, of course - WHITE . . . a color as "pure as the driven snow"! It's also been Mother Nature's backdrop for us Midwesterners for most of this winter. But let's talk about white for our interiors. It makes for a beautiful background color for a room - especially one with a magnificent view. Your eye sneaks past everything white to take in a cityscape or even a mountain view. One of our favorites is Benjamin Moore #OC-66 Snow White.

White evokes purity, freshness and is often selected for bathrooms, kitchens and laundry rooms. You can't open a design magazine and not see pages of white kitchens, spas or bathroom suites. It's fresh, crisp, refreshing and classic!

And it makes for a great canvas to showcase an art collection or hobby. Start with white for a blank slate. Add in your personal style - artwork, sculptures, books, greenery and your favorite color for a splash of drama.

Layer whites, textures, and patterns to add depth and interest. Mix cool whites with warm whites. Pair whites with metals - especially stainless steel, brass and copper.



Anchor an all white room with a dark stained floor and accent with dark architectural features - i.e. staircase railing, fireplace surround, cabinetry, etc.

Remember, white is NOT stark. It is welcoming, sophisticated and comfortable.

> *clockwise photos courtesy of: elle decor, abduzeedo.com, abduzeedo.com, shelterness.com*

## connect with us

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